

This extraordinary record of service to the Nation was further enhanced when Zachary Taylor was elected president of the United States in 1848. Under his administration, the Department of the Interior was created. Much of Taylor's administration was focused on the issue of the expansion of slavery, with the Compromise of 1850 coming shortly after his death.

Madam Speaker, I call the attention of the House to the life, legacy, and accomplishments of Zachary Taylor on the upcoming 225th anniversary of his birthday.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Stupak-Ellsworth-Pitts-Smith-Kaptur-Dahlkemper Amendment that maintains existing Federal law on the compelling issue of abortion. For 34 years, citizens of conscience on all sides have weighed in on this important moral and legal question. Lawmakers have attempted to accommodate very divergent views, even on the meaning of life itself. Many lives must be considered—the life of the mother, the life of the child, including the unborn but conceived, and in my opinion the rarely mentioned responsibilities of the father as well.

Our legislative struggle to do what is proper is rooted in interrelated moral, scientific, legal, and yes, theological dissonances. What is right? What should be legal? And what will lead to a just and responsible society for all? I continue to approach this deeply moving issue as a representative from a widely diverse Congressional district in northwestern Ohio, an area of our Nation comprised of people from many different ethnicities, races, faiths, denominations and belief systems. My representation of these varying views embodies the deepest respect for all our people, and for the integrity with which they have arrived at their values.

This amendment reaffirms longstanding, existing law, and nothing more. It represents the broad consensus of the American people after decades of consideration on the issue. Recent Gallup polls show that 51 percent of Americans consider themselves “pro-life” on the issue of abortion. But, this amendment does not resolve all moral questions that face pro choice, prolife, and non-aligned Americans on this issue. All it does is restate existing law.

It states that no Federal funds “authorized under this Act may be used to pay for any abortion, or to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion,” except in the cases of the life of the mother, rape or incest.

Effectively, the precedent setting Hyde amendment—which has been in effect for 34 years in our Nation—will apply to the public option, and to any Federal plans which include elective abortion. The amendment does no more, and no less. Further, with the added coverage for all Americans that this bill provides, perhaps the abortion choice will become less attractive for those faced with such a life wrenching choice.

This amendment will not bar any one from purchasing their own private supplemental rider. Our language is the same that applies in current law on Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Plan, and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan, FEHBP, itself which offers many private insurance plans. The FEHBP is a model for how this language will be applied. It has been tried, tested, and proven.

The inclusion of this amendment clarifies the bill's language on the potential fungibility of premium dollars deposited in Federal accounts that could result in federally sanctioned insurance paid for by taxes, premiums, or Federal subsidies diverted to pay for abortions by those who do not agree with the procedure.

Importantly, for the first time, the base measure itself will help vast scores of women to obtain health coverage and, by so doing limit abortion by enhancing broad coverage options for women's and children's health. The rate of infant mortality, which is fueled by shamefully high rates of premature birth in the United States, shows us that we are not addressing the needs of mother's and their babies. Providing the necessary support for women is the answer. This bill will vastly improve preventive care, double funds available to community health centers including obstetric and gynecological care, and move America fully into this 21st century. No woman, no woman—including poor women, pregnant women, unemployed women, working women, single women, and nursing women—will be left out of health insurance coverage.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce this important bipartisan legislation with my colleagues, Representatives HELLER, NADLER, KENNEDY, CAPPS, WAXMAN, SPEIER, MCGOVERN, ISRAEL, GRIJALVA, RICHARDSON, PERRIELLO, ENGEL, DELAHUNT, COSTA, WATSON, HALL (NY), STARK, CHU, NORTON, MOORE (KS), and HOLT. The companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senators FRANKEN, GRASSLEY, HATCH, and FEINSTEIN.

I have been working on the issue of DNA technology since 2001 when I, along with former Representative Steve Horn, held a hearing in the Government Reform Committee where we heard from a courageous rape survivor, Debbie Smith.

It was for Debbie, and the thousands of rape survivors like her, that I authored “The Debbie Smith Act” to provide Federal funding to process the unconscionable backlog of DNA evidence. This legislation passed as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004, authorizing the necessary funding to start processing the backlog through the creation of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated under the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Despite the availability of funding and some progress made, the national backlog continues to persist. Recent media reports have documented that across the country, backlogs continue to rise and sexual assaults occur that might otherwise have been prevented were the kits processed in a timely manner. This bill addresses the continuing rape kit backlog and several other problems that work to deny justice to victims of sexual assault—including the denial of free rape kits to survivors of sexual assault, and the shortage of trained health professionals capable of administering rape kit exams.

By creating incentives for jurisdictions to eliminate their rape kit backlogs, process their incoming rape kits in a timely manner, and publicly report their backlog numbers, this legislation would go a long way to ensuring that the purpose and intent of the Debbie Smith Act be fully realized.

According to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted somewhere in the United States. DNA evidence does not forget and it cannot be intimidated. By processing this evidence, we can prevent rapists from attacking more innocent victims and ensure that the survivors and their families receive justice.

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK YANKEES OWNER GEORGE STEINBRENNER III

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New York Yankees owner, George Steinbrenner III. I recently sponsored a resolution congratulating the Yankees on their 27th World Series win. Since the World Series victory was dedicated to Mr. Steinbrenner, I wanted to honor his dedication to the city of New York and the Yankees. He has owned the franchise for 36 years, the longest serving owner in Yankee history.

Mr. Steinbrenner always has had a longstanding interest in coaching and sports management. He began as an athletic director and baseball/football coach at an Ohio high school. In 1955, he became an assistant football coach for Northwestern University. The following year in 1956, he was an assistant coach for the Purdue University football team.

By 1961, he led a team of investors in the purchase of the Cleveland Pipers of the National Industrial Basketball League, which soon joined the American Basketball League, ABL. In May of 1962, Steinbrenner got the coveted young rookie, Jerry Lucas, to play for the Pipers. That same year the Pipers won the ABL Championship. Under his ownership, Steinbrenner made history by having the first African-American coach in professional basketball, John McClendon.

It was not until 1973 that Mr. Steinbrenner became part of a now historic deal when he bought the Yankees for \$10 million from Columbia Broadcasting Company, CBS. When Mr. Steinbrenner took ownership of the Yankees, they were a team in decline. After the 1962 season, the glory days were winding down for the Yankees. In 1966, they finished last in the American League, which had not

happened since 1912. As owner, Mr. Steinbrenner took over a Yankees franchise that needed rebuilding from the bottom up. He accepted nothing less than victory and made sure everyone in the Yankees organization worked together towards that goal. Within 4 years, Steinbrenner had directed the team back to its winning ways by helping guide the Yankees to World Series championships in 1977 and 1978.

This winning tradition has continued over the years. Overall, under his management, the Yankees have brought home 7 world championships, 11 American League pennants, and 16 division titles. Many Yankee legends have played for the team during Steinbrenner's tenure as owner. Derek Jeter was quoted in the Associated Press after the recent World Series win as saying that, "He's the reason we're here. First of all, we wouldn't be in this stadium if it wasn't for him. We wouldn't have this group together if it wasn't for him. This is a special moment. We all tried to win it for him. He deserves it."

There is no question that George Steinbrenner has changed and modernized major league baseball and professional sports. A Yankees franchise that sold for \$10 million in 1973 has grown to a current value of \$1.5 billion under Steinbrenner's leadership.

Mr. Steinbrenner is also a dedicated and generous philanthropist. He established the Gold Shield Foundation in Tampa Bay and the Silver Shield Foundation in New York City, both of which financially support families of fallen police officers. Among many other endeavors, he has donated funds to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Ohio State, the University of Florida, and most notably, given \$1 million to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund at Virginia Tech University. These are just a few of his many efforts to assist other organizations.

Although Mr. Steinbrenner was not in attendance at the 27th Yankee World Championship, his legacy was an important part of the franchise's victory. The message displayed over the field on that November night says it all: "Boss this is for you!"

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Steinbrenner for his long dedication towards the City of New York, my borough of the Bronx, and the great success that he has brought to the New York Yankees organization.

INTRODUCING THE INCREASING ACCESS TO VOLUNTARY SCREENING FOR HIV/AIDS AND STIS ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections Act of 2009, a bill that will reduce the spread and morbidities associated with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, STIs.

Fifty percent of sexually active Americans will contract an STI at some point in their lives, and 15 million STIs are reported each

year in the United States. Many of these infections are asymptomatic for an extended amount of time and often remain undiagnosed, or diagnosed at later stages resulting in increased rates of mortality, morbidity, disability, and transmission.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommend that voluntary screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs be integrated into routine clinical care. However, stigma, culture, language, lack of education, cost, limited resources, and inaccurate perceptions of risk contribute to insufficient screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs. And, these same factors have exacerbated the instances of transmission and late detection of HIV/AIDS and STIs over the past decade.

The Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2009 takes an aggressive and multifaceted approach to combating HIV/AIDS and STIs by increasing access to voluntary screening and other preventative methods while preserving patient rights and confidentiality.

Among other things, my bill includes 83 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, FMAP, rate for the screening of HIV/AIDS and other STIs and requires all private health insurance plans to cover screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. My bill provides grants to Federally Qualified Health Centers to serve individuals who cannot access screening because they lack insurance coverage or sufficient income. And, my bill urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a broad and comprehensive approach to covering screening for HIV/AIDS, and encourages CMS to take steps to reimburse screening for other STIs.

Additionally, the Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2009 supports access to early medical and mental treatment. It includes language from the Early Treatment for HIV/AIDS Act, ETHA, and requires testing facilities to link patients to appropriate medical and mental health services.

Lastly, the bill will make screening and other preventative services more accessible to groups that have been historically underrepresented in public health interventions for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. It requires the Director of the CDC to work with appropriate entities to track screening trends for HIV/AIDS and STIs among people with disabilities, and ensure that comprehensive sex education materials are accessible to these individuals. The bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take the appropriate steps to ensure that all women have equal access to screening for cervical cancer regardless of sexual behavior or sexual orientation. And, this bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve research efforts concerning the prevention, spread and transmission of HIV/AIDS and STIs in the transgender community.

Madam Speaker, voluntary and routine screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs is an effective and low-cost approach to decreasing the life-threatening and life-altering effects of these infections. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill that includes a comprehensive and evidence based strategy to improve the overall health of our nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE VIENNA INN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of a landmark in Northern Virginia, the Vienna Inn. Located in the heart of the Town of Vienna, the Inn continues to bring together people from all walks of life. You always feel welcome and you can always find a good meal and great conversation.

The Vienna Inn is a part of the fabric that makes up the Town of Vienna. Its walls, with vintage black and white pictures, sports memorabilia, and other oddities, tell Northern Virginia's story. First opened in 1960 by Mollie and Mike Abraham, the Vienna Inn took over what was then Freddy's Cafe. Dating back to when the tavern was first built in 1925, the Inn also has served as an ice cream parlor and a sandwich shop.

Mollie and Mike sought to establish a local restaurant that would encourage the community to come together and share their common experiences in a relaxed setting. As Mollie Abraham once said, "You could sit at a table with strangers and by the end of the night be friends".

Mike and Mollie became fixtures of our community, supporting local sports teams and community events. In fact, when Mollie was not making jokes with patrons she could be found umpiring local tennis matches, volunteering with the Americans for Democratic Action, and serving as a regional board member with the National Organization for Women.

The Abraham family's business grew into a local treasure, with people coming from all over the National Capital Region for a famous Vienna Inn hot dog and a pint of beer. As the business grew, the Abrahams hired their son, Philip, a Culinary Institute of America graduate, as their head chef. Mollie credits her son's home-style cooking with helping the Inn remain so popular within the community.

After 40 years of service to the community, Mollie sold the Vienna Inn to Marty Volk in 2000. To Mollie, selling the Vienna Inn to Mr. Volk was like keeping the business in the family. Marty has been a customer since he was a 6-year-old, and he understands the rich history and the tradition of the Vienna Inn.

Today, the Vienna Inn is still the same as it was 50 years ago. You'll see business leaders at the bar eating a hot dog with the local plumber and a soccer team enjoying chili dogs at the corner table. Of course, the "Vienna Inn Corner Club" still claims one corner of the bar every weekday afternoon. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Inn on 50 years of service to the Town of Vienna. I and many other loyal patrons from across Northern Virginia wish the Inn many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPIRIT OF WAXAHACHIE

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Spirit of